Informant:	**LMP-S1**	**Spanish**
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Interviewers:	**C. Hernandez, M. Jones, P. Polk**	
Transcriber:	**?**	

J: So we're going to start with questions about crutches, the candles on the floor, the ???, the ???? and then divination…Oh no…ceionism???

CH: We wanted to begin by asking you some things about…over there where you have the candles there is a group of white candles and we wanted to know if that has any significance?

S1: Oh Yes, those are candles for…I just cured someone this morning that was harmed. He had nails on his calves and he was almost becoming disabled.

CH: So the candles are for that person?

S1: Yes.

CH: how many are they?

S1: 12

CH: Is there significance to the number?

S1: I always ask for 12 or 21….

CH: Is that what San Simon asks or what?

S1: That's how I work it.

CH: I also wanted to ask you about the crutches in the other room near the second San Simon.

S1: Those belong to people that have been on crutches and when they get better they leave it there.

CH: They leave it for San Simon?

S1: Yes but I tell them I can give them away to other people later.

CH: And we wanted to ask about a green liquid that you have here near the entrance. I don't remember if we have asked you about it before, it's a like a blend and it looks really green.

S1: Where is it?

CH: Near the bottles of gold dust…

S1: That's not green.

CH: That's for businesses that are not doing very well and people envy you a lot. You put it on a Thursday at noon and you pray an Our Father and a Hail Mary and you call the spirits. I usually work with Maria Luisa Sosa, Hermano Garcia, Felipe Figueroa, and Hermano Rodolfo. I pray to them, to God and to San Simon of Sumil, Sanmayat, and to San Andres of (?) . I ask them to help me so that I get many customers, so that they can protect my business and my ???. I add two bottles of honey, seven quarters, three bottles of and a magnet rock.. Every three days you throw it out. You throw it out at around noon on Sunday, but that's so that there is nothing. You put some on your face, and you rub it on the soles of your feet, on your stomach and on your back.

CH: Do you sell that?

S1: No I don't, that's for me.

CH: Does it turn green on its own?

S1: Yes it does that on its own. It has gold dust**,** flouridated water, and camphor. This bottle has alcohol- but the industrial kind not just the regular type. That alcohol has??? pearls, these ones here. These are used for many things. They scare off bad spirits, and they scare off people that hate you.

CH: Where do you buy them?

S1: Guatemala.

CH: They bring them from Guatemala?

S1: Yes. That is also good for women that remained with air in their stomach from the time when they were pregnant.

CH: Do you give it to them as a drink?

S1: No I don't give them anything here because it's against the law. I use this for me, it's industrial alcohol and it has white 'amisque'.

CH: Is it a type dust?

S1: It's a dust like salt. It's very hot and if you light a match it catches on fire- it's like gunpowder. They don't sell that here they sell it in Mexico. They don't sell industrial alcohol in this country either, only down there even though some say it that hospitals have it here.

CH: You also have another bottle with a pink powder in it.

S1: Where is that?

CH: Near the dust…

S1: This one?

CH: Yes.

S1: This is sugar and I use it to do different jobs.

CH: What type of jobs?

S1: Love jobs.

CH: So it's just sugar and red coloring?

S1: Yes. It is also used when for example, you own a business and you are not getting any customers. You light all the yellow candles. You add coffee, milk, sugar, gold dust and you say an Our Father and you put some coffee. But I don't have coffee here, it is at home.

CH: Do you also add salt?

S1: Yes, salt. You put in 5 pinches of salt. You do the 5-pointed star. You pray an Our Father and a Hail Mary and you ask that money come your way without looking for it, that you get new friends without looking for them out and that the authority doesn't bother you.

CH: On each star you put….

S1: Ok, this is the point right? But that's a candle. So you put a whole here, another one over here... in total. You write your wish on the candleholder. This is for a job. It's so that you never run out of money in your home. The salt is so you never go without a salary so that you always have money on your pocket, even if it's a little bit. This dust brings money. And this is so that there might be peace in your home. The coffee is used so that you never have problems in your home, so that everyone is friendly to each other, and so that you always have food. In each whole you put 5 pinches, but before anything you make the sign of the cross with the nail of this finger...that's for when there are no jobs. You ask God and the Virgin Mary and you ask that you always have a job and that you always have food in your house.

J: There are four sets of crutches, what was each of those persons healed of, lameness I suppose but beyond that?

S1: Some of them had accidents and the doctors told them they would never walk again. Some had had hip surgery.

CH: I guess he doesn't remember...

S1: I don't do any of that, San Simon does that. What else?

CH: Did you want to ask him about the 'baños' (baths)? or the bottles? and how often....

J:The sale of those products plus candles, which ones sell most and sprays, which ones sell most...

S1: If you want I can tell you the significance of the candles of San Simon?

CH: Yes, please, if you could explain me the colors of the candles.

S1: Could you ask each one for a candle? I can begin there, or I can tell you about this thing you can do when someone has to go to court...

CH: OK

S1: You get a cup like this one, not this big though. This one belongs to San Simon. It's used if a person is behind bars, this helps them get their freedom back. You put three cigars, not just any cigars but San Simon cigars, you take them and you crush them like this. Then you take some parchment, like a sheet like this one and you write what it is you want. You can say "San Simon, please have them give me a court date and that I go free or that I go without a fine or that they don't deport me". You take about a quarter of a bottle of honey and you empty it out on top of the banner and you put the name of the person you want to be released from jail and you put a red ribbon…a wide red ribbon, with the name of the person written seven times, the person's problem, and the persons case number. You leave the candles out for nine days with white San Simon candles, seven of 'fair judge' (justo juez), and seven court candles. As it works it's way up the paper it makes a lot of foam and the water becomes consumed. If it is consumed then the person is going to go free but if it falls it's because the person is not going to go free.

CH: With what frequency do people ask you for that?

S1: Very often.

CH: What are the major problems?

S1: (Piques)???. But there are some other problems that come up because they are thieves, sometimes because a man hits their wife. There is also people that sell drugs and they have lots of faith in San Simon. But I don't get involved with that because that can cause a lot of problems! I only help when I know something unfair happened. Do you want me to tell you another one?

CH: Sure…he just gave us, I guess a remedy for getting people out of jail…

S1: I can't remember if I already told you about a day that San Simon spoke to me. Have you videotaped that? It was about six months ago or a little before you came to my home. It didn't happen here nor in Guatemala. It happened in a dream! San Simon had a small blue ?(tacuche), short pants with rubber boots. He was wearing dark blue clothes. He was a man of dark complexion of about ?(60) years old and he told me he was Simon and al of a sudden I saw a burnt candle. Then he told me to get closer to

him. First he was wearing a dress that was the same color as the Border Patrol's uniform. He was sitting down in a plain and there were some trees over here but over here there were wires (barbed wire). They were the kind that you use for the cows. I was about over here and San Simon was over here on the chair. Three women showed up, but he was sitting down looking drunk and I came up to him. I approached him quickly because the two women walked up, wearing huge aprons- the kind they use in El Salvador. They were taking off his pants and so he said to me, 'cover me'. All of a sudden a yellow towel appeared and I threw it on his face without the women touching it. San Simon didn't want to see them. He wanted to talk to me, the women left and when they left he took off the barbed wire. "I want to tell you what it is that your friend has", he told me. My friend is a woman whose name is Adelia, she's here. She's always sick, with many things. One day she got really sick and I took her to the hospital. It was in those days that he told me what to do. He gave me a spin like this in the woodland and he spoke to me. First there were a bunch of candles like this…around over there there was no more barbed wire and the women hadn't touched him or anything and it was like this, like a fire, and he told me that this is to get a job, they were green candles with estoraque.

CH: What's estoraque?

S1: Like myrrh. He told me that was used to help people find a job. There was also a cross like this, but it was made of black salt. On top of the black salt it was white like this…on top. He told me that that was to ?(salar) a person (or give them bad luck), when the person deserves it. After that he told me that there were only male 'parts' and he told me that it was so a person could not have any relationship. Three parts of a man like this but with pepper. He told me that those were so that people wouldn't be able to have sex. Then he told me that if you wanted a person to get cured you had to put seven yellow candles such as these ones. He made three (???) like this. That's what he said and he left all his burnings like this. They were not burnt it was just the sample, and I went that way and I appeared in a place where there are cows and he told me that he was not drunk and that he only wanted to talk to me. His teeth where quite big, he had dark skin, and he wanted to tell me what cm
y friend had and he grabbed me like when someone is drunk and I thought he was going to urinate but he was actually going to vomit. But he didn't vomit anything, he just heaved and through these things. They were really small and burnt. And he said that's what your friend has and she will soon be cured and she was cured and from there….

CH: Of those same colors?

S1: Yes, purple and yellow, but there are some like that very small. He didn't salivate or anything just like this and it came out, and then he told me that he only wanted to talk to me and that he wasn't drunk he was just doing that because he didn't want them (the women) around because they are too imposing. He told me he was happy and he told me to let go of him, at which point he began to spin, like running around me and when he stopped running he hugged me. Then he asked me to sit him far away. I did and he began to work with the barbwire and then the women came back and kneeled in front of him and he left. That's what San Simon told me six months ago. And the San Simon candles, the meaning of this one is for love, you put the name of the woman on top and the name of the man on the bottom.

CH: Like…

S1: You write them with a needle, if you want anything faster you use honey. This is for when children have, like, an eye or something. These are also for kids that for example, have a headache, don't sleep well, or wet their bed. So you ask for this candle for your girl and this black one is for enemies but I don't use it because I don't like it. I've never liked it. With this candle- you cut here and you open here, you put it like this and you pour black salt and you break it like this and you light it, this is so a person will not get a job! You place it like this. This is for business…in Guatemala this one is sky blue. In here they are plain blue because they don't make them sky blue here. The meaning of this one, in one Guatemala, is so that there may be lots of business. Over there the sky blue candle of San Simon is put a lot of faith. The green one is so that lots of clients go to your place. This one is so that there are no problems at your work so that there may be lots of friendliness. This one is for when a person has an addiction or bad habits. For example, for people that drink a lot. You put candles to San Simon and you make a novena for nine days-the purple one.

CH: What do you do with the candle?

S1: You plead to San Simon, you pray to him. You make a novena For San Simon, so that the person- anyone that uses drugs or a person that drinks a lot.

CH: How many times a day do you have to pray?

S1: There are people that do it for nine days straight.

CH: More than one time a day within those nine days?

S1: No, just those nine days. This one is for protection, for adults, well for, lets say for him. He comes here and he's sick and if he has lots of faith in San Simon he will ask him to protect him and to take away the pain he has. If he is in the hospital to be released, this is the candle he should use. For sick kids it's this one and this one. Black people use this one a lot, they say it does a lot of good to them. This one is not really good for me because you use it to tie someone up. This is a brown candle-I don't like it!

CH: Are brown candles are for separation?

S1: Yes but black people take it as good luck. This one here is very popular with black people.

CH: For what reason?

S1: I don't know, they have lots of faith in it, it's very good for them and for white people too. White people buy this kind of candle, red, white and blue.

CH: Do Latinos but all the types or which one?

S1: This one candle here sells a lot in the US among Latinos. But the one that belongs to San Simon, in Guatemala is that little one that is over there in the market.

CH: The one that is hanging down?

S1: Yes the small ones they have a really good smell and are very effective! But this one sells very well here. Over there in Guatemala you don't sell this one, it doesn't exist there.

P: What do the numbers mean? Three candles…

S1: Oh, they are 7 candles, 9 candles, 13 candles but usually you see 9 a lot.

CH: Is there a significance behind this?

S1: Yes there is, it's his law.

CH: His law is to have nine candles?

S1: Yes.

CH: And the ones that are over there in the front are for San Simon too, right?

S1: Since I was with San Simon, yes.

CH: But they are 12.

S1: Sometimes there are 12 or 13 depends on the sickness of the person, I could even do 20 or 21.

CH: How do you know what is the right number? Does San Simon tell you?

S1: No it's just what comes to me and that's what I get. If I give a session today and I tell you tomorrow then it has to be tomorrow. If I do a job for love and I say to myself Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Friday, Friday, Friday- it has to be on Friday because that's the day I got stuck on. The word that you end up repeating.

P: But nine is the strongest?

S1: Yes, there is another thing I want to say but I don't know because of the kids, it contains adult matter.

CH: No, it's Ok.

S1: You take a doll, I don't think I'll show it now, it's a doll like this, made of black paraffin. If you have, let's say you don't want someone to be close to you. Is it wrong to be saying all this?

CH: No

S1: Ok, you take this, but it has to be very well cleaned with hot water or it has to be new. Let's say this is the doll. I take it…

CH: The doll is made of paraffin, right?

S1: Yes. If it's a man, you put this written here on the back, on the chest, on the head. And then you say, 'you have to leave me, I no longer want to see you, and I want you to leave me in two, three or four days. If you say 4 days, he'll leave in four days. If you say seven then in 7 days he'll leave. Then you say, "leave me and don't complicate my life anymore, because I want you to leave". This candle is not a candle. It's the name of whoever you choose and you insert seven needles in the chest, forcefully, with one of those tools you use to color your eyes and you say 'lift yourself from my side and you cut the calves and you insert the doll. You put some milk and some dark vinegar, some salt, pinch of black pepper or even sweet black pepper but big one. You put it there, you put three pigeon feathers, those that you see flying around and you put it there and you put some rocks, of whatever you might find on the street. If he lives here, here in LA on Pico I would have to leave the doll around Pasadena or elsewhere. If it's two people, man and woman then you I would leave her here and I would leave him near San Diego. That's what that is for.

CH: That's not bad.

S1: No it's not because there are sometimes people in your neighborhood that are bad and you don't want them there.

CH: So he was just explaining to me how to get rid of a person or how to make somebody get away from you.

S1: It has to be done with needles, with a needle.

CH: It has to be done with a needle, basically you just break the little feet and put it in here but the milk, pepper, or ground pepper and…

S1: If you want them to fight you put little peppers. You have to throw the doll in an abandoned yard or in the woodland but not in water.

CH: Why can't it go in the water?

S1: Because the sea is alive and it brings things out and it will return it to you. The sea, when you put it in, it will expulse it.

CH: We wanted to ask you about other products you sell, like candles.

S1: Here the most preferred candle, the one that sells most, is the San Simon candle. We can sell u to 200 boxes a week. They are not expensive at all. We only make about 10 cents for each candle. It's not a lot, that's why we sell lots of candles. We sell the 7

colors of San Simon. The one that people buy the most is the blue one. For the festival of San Simon we sell 45 boxes in the day.

CH: In one day!? So, in the week you sell about….

S1: 200 sometimes100 sometimes 70 boxes of candles. Here the fame belongs to San Simon, because he is the miraculous one, because he does everything. And one time he said, that if the father, God, permits it, then it will be done. For example if he is asking for something against you and you don't really deserve it then he wont do it, he will punish him. You have to be very sure about what your doing, whether they deserve it or not, you can't just do harm because you want to.

P: Do you use this mostly with Guatemalans and people from El Salvador?

S1: My best business is with Salvadoreans, Guatemalans. I don't sell al lot to Hondurans or Nicaraguans. I also get Chineese people and Philipinos that are conjurers.

CH: Many Philipinos?

S1: Many!

CH: Like…

S1: I also get people from….from where the good looking Asian women come from?

CH: Japan?

S1: Japanese, something like that.

CH: He says he gets some Asian clients…

S1: It's those Asian models come from. People from Belize is very good with me and the people of Oaxaca! People from Puebla too. And from Mexico- from Sinaloa.

P: Does he sell of a lot of oils?

CH: Do you sell lots of oil?

S1: Yes, lots of it. I sell curing oils, holy oil, calming oil, and victory oil (aceite vencedor). But the oil I use a lot is the 'breaks down blocks' oil (aceite rompe bloq), San Simon oil, (rompe conjuro) oil, and (rompe saraguey) oil. Those are the ones that sell the most. The (aceite intranquilo) uneasy oil, (aceite ven-a-mi) the 'come-to-me' oil, and (aceite abre camino) 'open a path' oil.

CH: And you sell them to Latino people, Central Americans or….?

S1: I sell the same to black people. There's also a lot of Russian women that buy many things.

CH: Are the amulets made by you or are there some….

S1: There are some amulets that come from companies in Mexico, I don't know where they come from. But I make my own amulets.

CH: You make them?

S1: Yes, my amulets carry prayers to San Simon and sometimes of the duende or the 'Divine Teacher' (divino maestro), sometimes of the Virgin of Guadalupe. But they carry a prayer.

CH: And how often do you sell the amulets?

S1: Three or four amulets in a month.

CH: So you sell more candles?

S1: What I do mostly here are cleansings. But the candles do sell very well. If you want to buy a candle Tuesday or Friday, it will cost you seven dollars. You don't charge them anything else.

P: Oils….

CH: I think the candles are the number one seller.

S1: These candles especially… I sell curing waters too, but mostly like this.

CH: San Simon water?

S1: Yes, but here it is processed water. In Guatemala they sell pure water. They call it San Simon water because they wash San Simons clothes with it.

CH: In the river?

S1: Yes. They pour liquor on San Simon but over there he doesn't have a hose that runs through him. They cover his face because it's material that can get damaged. They put a towel on his calves and below there is a faucet. That water cures because it comes from San Simon.

CH: And the water you have here that is of San Simon, is it for 'baths' (banos)…how many of those bottles would you say you sell in a month?

S1: I sell a lot of those because we give San Simon liquor and people give him a lot of liquor and we receive it and we give it to people as a remedy. You give it to San Simon in the mouth and we collect it in the other thing, because here we cannot make a faucet to collect it, we have a hose where it falls.

CH: Would you say you sell more than a dozen a month?

S1: More.

CH: About how many dozens?

S1: About two dozens.

CH: Two dozens a month?

S1: Yes.

CH: Do you sell more to Latinos?

S1: Latinos and Blacks. Not so much to white people because since it doesn't smell very good, they say that they don't like that smell.

P: How come candles are particularly powerful spiritual objects?

S1: Because of the paraffin and the wax it has, that's why.

CH: Is that why?

S1: Paraffin is made of something that animals collect, and wax too. Candles have wax and paraffin.

CH: And that's something that San Simon receives more or less?

S1: Yes, another thing is that people get cured mostly because of faith! They say, "I ask that with all this faith San Simon will help me. But it's mostly with faith.

CH: But is there some meaning, because I've heard of people that when they light the candle you can't put it out, you have to let it run out…

S1: We never put them out; they burn out here on their own.

CH: What happens if someone burns a candle that is already prepared and then puts it out?

S1: No, they don't put it out! If it turns itself off then that's bad, because it's not doing it's job. And if you turn it off then you ruin it's job. If there is something bad, you cover the candle and it looks like it's scratched like a cloud and it doesn't melt. That's because there is a trap here because they don't want people to pass over here, due to envy. So you cover it all like this and you leave a piece. When the candle looks like this, it's very good and the candle is saying that it is doing its job…

CH: Like now?

S1: It's good, because the candle is turning itself off a lot it doesn't work. Like it had water but it doesn't have water. There are some candles that are like this and they turn off by themselves.

CH: And so that means that the job is not working?

S1: Yes, when it is doing its job, a candle has to go like this.

CH: Like this one?

S1: Yes, these are the ones that work really well for me, they always grow really well, and these over here grow really pretty too.

CH: Those are beautiful and if it turns off by themselves its bad it means that the work is not going to happen. If you turn them off it means your kind of turning off the work, so, your stopping whatever you started.

S1: Just like this flower they call it a clover (trebol) and that they use a lot for protection, amulets or good luck.

CH: And so when you make the amulets you put in the clover?

S1: Only if I have the one that's dried, the one they sell in the store. But not this one. I only use this one in my house.

CH: Couldn't you just cut it and let it dry?

S1: Yeah, but it doesn't really work well, it gets all like…ugly and it breaks. You have to put a special liquid in order for that not to happen.

P: Do more people light candles here in the temple or do they take them home and light them?

CH: Would you say that the majority of the people that buy candles burn them here or do they take them home?

S1: They take them home. I've put this here with the idea that they light them here and that they don't have problems with children. There are some women that don't pay attention and leave a piece of paper or something and their house catches on fire. That's why I tell them to leave their candle here, because I'm always very cautious that you do not play with fire and I tell them to be careful. I am very scared of fire and of gas. I never go to my home because I keep an eye on my candles everyday, I get up to see them. If I leave…and I think that a candle is on, I come back. If I have the same thought again, I definitely come back, because there may be something wrong. We only turn off the candles when we know that there is an earthquake or something very big. On the year 2000 celebration we turned them off because they said a lot things would happen. They were saying the houses would fall down. But thank God, we have an extinguisher and everything. We are on top of things so much that we have cameras to

see tat nothing is catching on fire. Everything is made of metal just in case and I tell people that for there own good they leave the candles here because kids will sometimes stick their hands in or put paper on it and that's dangerous. If they are going to put a candle in the house I tell them to put a bucket of water with the candle in the middle.

P: Are the ones that are here for special works?

CH: The ones that are here he recommends to the people if they are taking the vela, oh if you have children at home or you're doubtful of like safety then leave them here. He says he's very careful of them and that's why he has cameras and everything, so that he can be watching and be alert of what's going on with the candles making sure everything is ok, he says he's really careful about that. If he goes home and he knows he's got candles, and he doubts if he left stuff on or if it wasn't safe he'll come back, he'll rush back.

S1: I recommend to people to be very careful because kids don't know and they touch and get burned. There are some moms that are very careless. Sometimes they stick paper on the candle and it explodes or it's not doing it's job right and it blows. Thank the good Lord and San Simon that I've had my store for 12 years. I had it over there in front. We've never had any type of problem.

CH: So you've had this Botanica for 12 years?

S1: Yes, 12 years. I've been here 5 or 6 but I was also up there for a few more.

CH: What are…or…how do you use the Herb and Perfume Soaps (Jabones de Yerba, Jabones de Perfume) and how often do you sell those products?

S1: They sell a lot, but I will tell you the truth. I don't sell them a lot because I don't know how they make them. I recommend what I make, I don't know what they put on them. But I don't recommend it a lot because I don't know what it's made of. One might be good but the company makes them by the thousands and then they don't put anything into them.

CH: So you don't trust the products….

S1: No, I do trust 'dusts' (polvos). I call them talcum powder. I have lots of faith in my candles. It's my store but I tell them to buy them but I don't know much about them.

CH: Soaps, is not something that he really feels comfortable about.

P: How about the statues?

CH: And the statues, which ones are the one you sell the most?

S1: San Simon all the time.

P: What do people do with San Simon statues?

S1: They come here to me and they ask me to cure them. I do a cleanse and I pass on them rue, rosemary, sweet-basil and then I put it here on their hand. Then I put incense and their hand. I always tell them to never break a statue out of anger from seeing the work didn't do anything. You don't toss around any saints. If you don't want it you should give it away, but you never break them.

CH: How many statues of San Simon do you sell?

S1: Here I sell it a lot, here the commerce is San Simon, everything…if all this was of San Simon then I sell more.

P: Do a lot of people pray to their own little shrines of San Simon in their houses?

S1: All the homes of Latinos have San Simon altars in them. A few white people are beginning to learn of San Simon. I know a man on Wilshire that lives with a Guatemalan and INAUDIBLE and INAUDIBLE. He asked to be married and he got married and they have two kids. They have a lot of faith.

CH: He says that there is the occasional white person that believes in San Simon and will have an altar. For the most part if you go to any Latino person's house you'll find an altar for San Simon.

P: Are there other times when he tells people they need to buy a statue of San Simon and build an altar?

S1: No, that comes from the person. I don't recommend any of that, they know if they want it or not because I don't want them to later throw him away or whatever. There are some people that come to return San Simon because they say that he has made them split up, or has made people sick. That's all lies because San Simon is not like that, he is good. I have him for…I am 41 years old and I have know him for about 35 years. Since I've been alive non of my family members have died except one aunt that died of cancer but that had nothing to do with that. The rest of the family, my parents, my sisters, her kids are very devout.

CH: He says he doesn't recommend people to get San Simon, what he does is if they want it then he does the blessing and gives it to him to hold and does the prayer and blessing and the whole ritual so that they can take that San Simon to their homes but he doesn't recommend it because it's a very serious thing and if…they are not supposed break it or just leave it, they are supposed to always keep it, otherwise it's bad, the person breaks, if you do that you are hurting yourself.

P: If you don't take care of it.

CH: He says that there have been people that return San Simon, because they say, Oh…he makes me brake up with my family or makes bad things with my family but he thinks that's not true because nothing like that has ever happened to him or his family in

all the time that his family has known about San Simon and he's got a complete family he says.

P: So there probably not doing what they should be doing.

CH: Or they don't have faith.

P: Right. Can you explain the difference between blue San Simon, red San Simon and black San Simon?

S1: Those are just ideas of people but San Simon is only one. Those are just ideas of people, they want to have him in different colors. I like the white outfit a lot or the beige one.

CH: But it doesn't matter what outfit he has as long as it is San Simon?

S1: It does not matter. San Simon does not ask for different tastes he doesn't ask for anything, if you give him food that's good and if you don't feed him it's still ok. Whatever you can put on him, I've had San Simon with indigenous clothing. In Guatemala they have him dressed as a Lieutenant, President, and of Mayor. There have been presidents that have promised that if they win the elections they will give him the stars that they wear here, when they graduate. They've built a new church. The San Simon church was very small, I never had a chance to see it. They say that it burnt down, and that everything turned into ashes except for the place where he was at. It was a straw ranch and there were lots of candles. It is known that President Arana built the church. He was a very famous president in Guatemala. San Simon believes in politicians, and in land owners of very big markets. San Simon is known by people with farms, people with money, they are big believers.

P: Are San Simon's clothes important?

S1: If you want to use it like an amulet?

CH: No, he wants to know if it has a significant importance. What do people do with these clothes, what is it used for?

S1: You store it or give it away. What they do in Guatemala is that when he has already used it they say that when they take it off they give it away to people. In here he doesn't change clothes every day. He puts on three customs a year. We don't change him very often because he's heavy and he's made of wood and he's going to get hurt and I don't want him to get hurt. I don't think I could find another San Simon like him around here. San Simon's clothes are always new and it's brand name. Either I put it on him or people do, but he wears it once then we give it away. San Simon's clothes look like they were used a lot. We change his shirt, socks, underwear- everything.

CH: He has a full wardrobe, so, once he takes off his clothes they give it away to different people, but pretty much only changes San Simon three times a year and in Guatemala they say that they give away the clothes…once he's worn it they're able to

give it away and they take care of him. And he said the waters, the (banos) ‘baths’ they make in Guatemala are made from washing his clothes, it’s the water that…that when you wash his clothes in, that’s the water that is very healing and it cures.

S1: In Guatemala, people would fight to have San Simon’s shirt but I don’t think they give it to just anyone…San Simon’s clothes are very respectable it’s very sacred for us poor people and for the Indigenous of Guatemala. San Simon is God first and he is a special man in Guatemala.